

[Letter from Woody Guthrie to Alan Lomax, ca. late July 1940]

31 East 21 Street % H. Ambellan New York City

Dear Allan & Elizabeth:

Got your letter about the Alliance feller. Will get in touch with him right away. Thanks for the tip.

Jim Garland, Sarah Ogan, and me put on a radio program over WNYC last week. We got 3 more coming up. Ivan Black of Cafe Society was on the phone when we got through, he has got lots of ideas about getting me on different radio programs as a guest. He wants to go hillbilly down at Cafe Society and compete with Zeke Manners over at the Village Barn.

Victor wont record the rain song. Afraid. They said they would perhaps give me permission to record it for someone else. TAC I reckon. Me and Wetherald gets along pretty good. Gonna get married in the early spring. But of course not to each other. Old Bob. Some feller. I made a talking record for him to accompany the album. Some sort of a speech to be give to radio stations that want to broadcast them. He forgot about paying me.

Pete has been to Wisconsin with the Youths. He's back now. We been singing around at the puppet workshop and other places. We're really getting set in the saddle. Going up to Camp Lakeland today and sing there tonight. Then 2 bookings here in New York tomorrow night. Then Sunday we're going out to the Staten Island with the Spanish Relief Committee. Went to a party out at Bill Groppers house last week and got drunker'n old billy hell. I sung at the bar and everybody bought me drinks. The bar cleared 2 bushel

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baskets and one scoop shovel full of silver dollars, and they packed the small change off in a gunny sack. It was a howling success with everybody howling about my singing.

Alan do you reckon you could help me throw n a party there in Washington for Oklahoma? I could sing and auction off some of the dust bowl albums with one of the talking introductions and some hand written stuff. You could sing, too. Pete could sing with us. Elizabeth could ride the north fence. She could take her dog and have him yelp while I try to sing. How is the dog by the way? I forgot his name. I think its a she, aint it? How's Nick? I mailed him a arm load of junk I dont even know if he could use it or not. Hope so. I can't write about money very good. Never had much practice.

Jim Garland is some guy. It dont take nothing to get him started and when he gets started it dont take nothing to keep him a going and then he gets him a drink and his bashful spell wears off, and he crosses his legs and really tells you about it. Pretty good feller. Kind of like him. Got a good wife. Two good kids, but they frail them so dam much they cain't grow.

PM give Jim and Sarah and me a nice write up. Gonna shoot the ink to us again next week after our next extry special, easy riding, honest to goodness, high rolling, double barrell, double shuffle, specially compounded, copyright and pantented, gum dipped, cork tipped, lead loaded, rubber lines, felt padded, fur trimmed, slick finished, radio program. Woody
Woody